

**November 8, 2013**

### **Who Becomes A Personal Chef?**

Seldom does a person in their very early 20's elect to become a personal chef, then continue with that as their only career (although the trend is beginning to lean that direction ever so slightly). Virtually all personal chefs have a background, but that background is as wide as the ocean. Educational levels, social levels and prior experience are not common threads. The enjoyment cooking brings to a person is one common thread. The curiosity to push a recipe or develop a recipe is a common trait. And usually the person has far too many recipe books and watches a fair amount of cable cooking shows. And let's not forget the food magazine subscription(s) and web sites that are book marked! Food is the common thread. Personal chefs literally come from all walks – high tech, professional, business, blue collar and work-at-homers who for a variety of reasons want to begin this type of business. So there is no clear cut answer. A snapshot of personal chefs today would reveal that 70% are female, half of all personal chefs have little or no prior food service background or formal culinary arts training, and all believe that this career is a destination (compared to doing something while waiting for something else to come along). Personal chefs thrive in all 50 states, although in reality, Alaska and Hawaii are tougher markets than the lower 48.

